

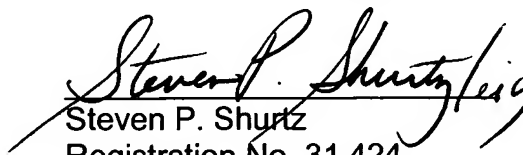


**R marks:**

The transmittal letter filed with the application requested an amendment to the first line of the specification and cancellation of claims 1-8. Since that directive may not have complied with 37 CFR § 1.121, the forgoing amendment is being presented. This amendment is made in lieu of the amendment to the specification and claims requested in the transmittal letter.

Respectfully submitted,

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